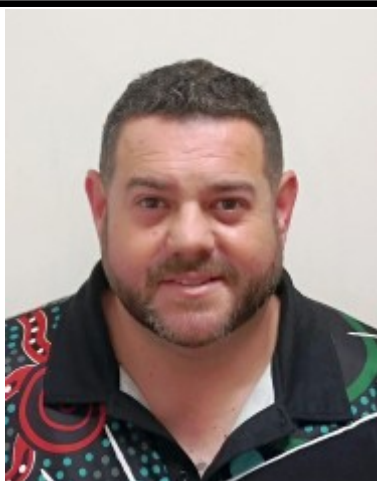


April 2021

Newsletter



Message from the CEO.

Welcome Community. Naa Marni - Greetings

It has been six months since my appointment as CEO and I am pleased to inform you of our recent developments. I'd like to firstly acknowledge our funders who have provided consistent support for our organisation. I really appreciate the relationship we have and the professional support that has been provided over the past 6 months. We look forward to working with you into the future.

Thursday April 15th marks 30 years since the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody however, Aboriginal people are still the most overrepresented and incarcerated people in the world. ASG is committed to working with our people who face day to day social injustices like child removal, family violence and lack of housing. Our people are more likely to get caught in the justice system due to the ongoing effects of colonisation, dispossession, discriminatory policies and systemic racism. ASG have recently developed a Memorandum of Understanding and entered into a new Service Agreement with the Department of Correctional Services. ASG will be rolling out two new AOD Prison counsellor positions working across the Adelaide Remand Centre, Adelaide Women's Prison, Yalata Labour Prison, Mobilong Prison, Cadel Training Centre and Mt Gambier Prison. These roles will essentially work with Aboriginal prisoners three months pre and post release to provide intensive AOD counselling and pathways beyond incarceration.

ASG's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan is almost finalised and as we move into the new financial year and I'm excited to see the enthusiasm among staff. Program Manager's and Executive staff have been working very hard and as we come together this month, we will be developing an ASG operational and business plan for 2021-2022. A two-day retreat will take place in Hahndorf this month where managers and executive staff will come together for planning. I'd like to commend and congratulate all of our program managers who work tirelessly in improving services to our Community as well as maintaining culturally safe programs for all of our clients. I'd like to acknowledge ASG's Directors of the Board for their ongoing commitment and tireless work in maintaining strong governance and leadership to the ASG. The 3-year Strategic Plan will provide ASG with 4 Key directions as we move forward into the future.

- Leadership
- Evidence and Community Experience
- Strong AOD and Homelessness Services
- Sustainability

Expanding our workforce and creating new service delivery opportunities will strengthen ASG's position across the state. Finally, to our valued partners and referrers, I thank you for your continued support of ASG. For anyone unsure of how to refer a person to us for support, you can find our referral forms on our website www.asg.org.au

Warm regards,

Allan Sumner

Photos from a recent Apology Day Community Event honoring the Stolen Generation. This was held at the Riverland Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Glossop



Walk of Awareness honoring the Stolen Generation at Port Adelaide—13/2/2021



Newsletter enquiries to dons@asq.org.au

www.asq.org.au

April 2021

Western Adelaide Aboriginal Specific Homelessness Service (WAASHS)

The year 2020 was a difficult year for our Community due to COVID19, however staff continued to provide a service and advocate for our clients and community for housing. Residents that were residing at Cyril Lindsay House and Annie Koolmatrie House had to stay longer than the 12 week criteria due to unforeseen circumstances (COVID19) which limited vacant housing offerings in SAHA and Community Housing providers. This caused unease for some and frustration for others due to not knowing when they would be housed and settled into a home.

Moving forward WAASHS's main focus is to advocate for our clients for long term housing through SAHA, Community Housing, Supportive Housing or transitional housing depending on each individual circumstances. Besides culturally safe Case Management for each individual we also empower and support our clients to be able to sustain a tenancy while in our crisis accommodation for when they exit our program.

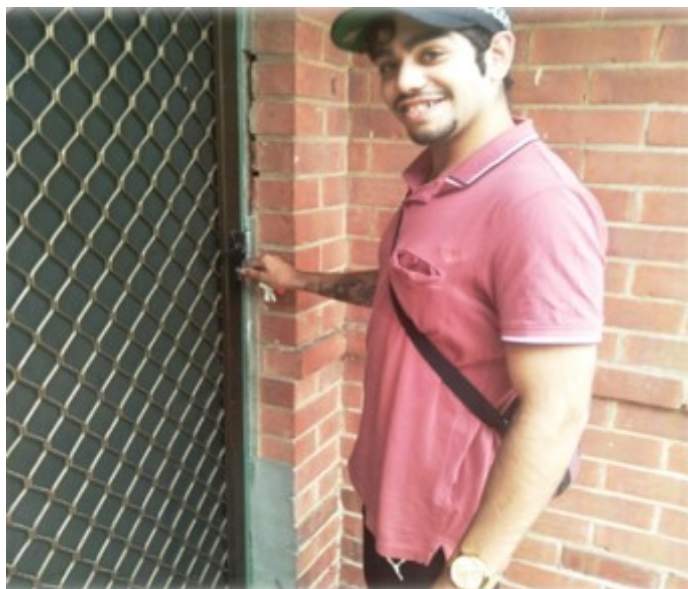
This month WAASHS has successfully housed five individuals and their children. Our clients successfully moved into long term housing through SAHA, Supportive Housing Property's and long term Community Housing Property.

This Month we have also completed a "talking circle" and invited Centacare worker Jonathon to support this. ASG are on an Alliance Group with other Homelessness services and part of the criteria is capturing people's journey through homelessness and hearing their story.

WAASHS is also privileged to have Major Sumner AM senior elder of the Ngarrindjeri people of the Coorong in South Australia to attend fortnightly for a yarning circle and smoking ceremony for the residents at CLH/AKH, Outreach clients, our SHP clients and post crisis clients.

WAASHS would also like to acknowledge all clients for staying focused, being positive and always respectful during these hard times.





Jessie first time walking into his home



Melissa and her beautiful daughter bubba



Melissa with her house keys

**Western Adelaide Aboriginal
Specific Homelessness
Service (WAASHS)**



Mathew opening his new house up, just after signing his lease



Exciting stuff happening at the Riverland Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Glossop in the Riverland with a small SA Water Grant enabling us to install a sustainable garden and plant up the established planter boxes. It will also have a worm farm, rainwater tanks and compost bin!

What we hope to create soon!

Climate change poses real threats to Indigenous flora and fauna, much of which is already under threat from urbanisation and modern agricultural practices.

It is more important than ever that we do our bit to protect habitats. By using indigenous plants in our garden we can create havens for plants, insects, lizards, possums, butterflies and birds, thus enhancing local biodiversity.





From July 2020, our Substance Misuse Team (Outreach) based at Woodville Gardens has been managed from the Riverland.

Tammy & Peter continue to provide ongoing delivery of substance misuse services and programs through improving the health status of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people through the delivery of effective, holistic, culturally appropriate, safe drug and alcohol interventions.

This is achieved by providing a range of substance misuse services to meet the needs of community and to improve client access to drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation.

This includes linkages to partner services, Nunkuwarrin Yunti (Brady Street Clinic) Nunkuwarrin Yunti, Northern DASSA and DASSA-Aboriginal Connection Program.

Tammy & Pete provide referral pathways into partner and other health services and provide assessment, referrals & AOD counselling under a case management framework and deliver to community members of the northern, central and western areas of Adelaide.

They are also an essential linkage for clients attending residential rehabilitation at our Monarto Centres.

Tammy & Peter are well respected in community by both clients and service providers and amongst the Adelaide Court scene. Keep up the deadly work!

STAMP—Riverland

(Stand Tall and Make Progress)

Job Prospects along with Life without Barriers and Aboriginal Sobriety Group are offering a unique opportunity for Community members to participate in STAMP—a program designed to assist individuals in reaching their full potential.

This includes employment and training advice, tips on maintaining positive mental health and wellbeing, budgeting, tenancy management, cooking and other interactive sessions.



LIFE
WITHOUT
BARRIERS



**Aboriginal
Sobriety
Group**
INDIGENOUS CORPORATION
ICN 8376



Hello, my name is Wahkuna, I am a proud Ngarrindjeri/Kurna woman.

I have worked with Community for the past 15 years, my background has always been working with my people first in education, health, and then within the criminal justice system.

I am a deeply passionate woman, I am passionate about working to help my people with my whole heart. The roles I have fulfilled in the past and current have all been complex, I know that I have been able to make a difference in some way with many of my people, and this is what I will continue to do.

At Leila Rankine - House of Hope (LRHOH) our women are engaging in regular Drug and Alcohol Counselling with 3 highly skilled Counsellors from Warrondi Engage & Link Day Program. The AOD Counsellors provide in reach services to our woman on a weekly basis, then on alternate weeks the women go off site to their location to engage in group activities such as art therapy, music, and continued one to one counselling. They also participate in group work. We are extremely lucky to have such highly skilled counsellors on board our program.



Our TAFE facilitator has been unwell and not able to deliver the program recently, however she will be returning in the next couple of weeks. Moorundi Aboriginal Health Service attends LRHOH on a weekly and FN basis to deliver their Open hearts program and relapse prevention, both which are SEWB programs. We also have our Psychologist Mat Peddler who attends the facility weekly to meet with our women one on one.

We will be introducing horse therapy to LRHOH. Studies have proven that Equine Therapy promotes awareness using interactions with horses. There is current research which shows that close proximity to horses changes the human brain wave pattern to a more positive therapeutic space.

Respect Sister Girls 2 and Circle of Security have also commenced at LRHOH and will be delivered on a weekly basis. The women are enjoying art on site such as dot paintings, weaving, diamond art, they are walking daily, writing affirmations/journals & attending church on occasions.

I feel honored to be a part of this journey with the women who come to us for hope and for healing, and I look forward to continuing to be part of many more journeys with many more of our women. To be able to see a person beneath their pain and addiction, and to truly help them is something I am blessed to be able to do, as are all of my staff.

I am so grateful to all of my skilled Residential Care Workers for the unique individual skills they each bring to their roles, and for their ongoing commitment and devotion to the job - thank you to all of you, I value each and every one of you.

Leila Rankine - House of Hope



New additions to the ASG Family



David Sjoberg
Rehab Client Case
Coordinator – LTW



Shannon Clarke
Residential
Careworker - LTW



Damien Wanganeen
Residential Care worker
Homelessness



Vicki Roach
Residential
Careworker—LRHOH



Selena Hartman
Residential
Careworker— LRHOH



Roy Wilson
Residential Careworker
LTW



Amy Karpany
Residential
Careworker—LRHOH

The MAP boys in
Adelaide on a
beautiful Autumn
night



YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

If you have any suggestions regarding this newsletter, please contact Don Scordo at dons@asg.org.au

Do you want to be an ASG member?

Membership Applications to Bianca Kreft

Phone (08) 8223 4204

Email biancak@asg.org.au

or visit our website to download our membership form and read our rule book.

<http://asg.org.au/memberships/>

Aboriginal Sobriety Group Indigenous Corporation encourages the employment of Aboriginal people in the provision of respectful services to our Community and Clients.

80 % of our workforce are Aboriginal. 90% of our Directors to the Board are Aboriginal.



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